

EL OBSERVADOR



Las Ketchup consists of the Munoz sisters, Lola, Lucia and Pilar, the daughters of famed flamenco guitarist nicknamed El Tomate. These three young ladies are the new teen sensation from Spain which at only one week of their first single release "The Ketchup Song (Hey Hah)", have entered directly to #1 in the Supersales chart in their native country.

Move over 'Macarena'— Here comes the 'Ketchup Song' from Spain

AP— Now that the "Macarena" has become a distant memory, along comes "The Ketchup Song"— and dance.

The Spanish pop tune with gobbledygook lyrics is topping charts around the world, and it's accompanied by arm-waving, knee-knocking gyrations.

The three sisters who do the song teamed up only a year ago and named themselves Las Ketchup as an homage to their flamenco guitarist-father, nicknamed El Tomate.

The single has sold 2.5 million copies from Austria to Australia. In Europe it's No. 1 in sales in 15 countries, says London-based Music and Media magazine. The album that features the song has sold 900,000 copies around the world, reaching gold status in much of Latin America.

Teenagers in Kosovo love it. One Danish Internet portal offers the melody for downloading as a cell phone beep. And a version in Mandarin Chinese is planned for the world's most populous nation.

Sony Music thought the sisters had potential when it signed them, but no one expected all this, marketing director Jose Mateos said.

"The music business is not an exact science," Mateos said.

Indeed, the limelight is all over the Munoz sisters— Pilar, 29; Lola, 26; and Lucia, 19— and their song about a fashion-conscious Gypsy named Diego who makes up his own brand of rap.

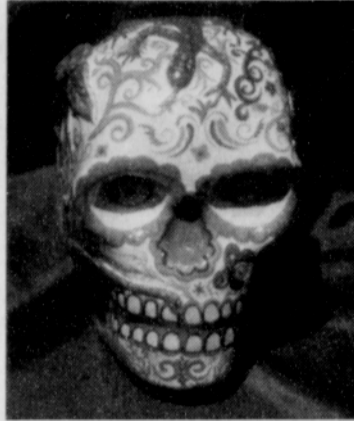
Since the song has cut the mustard with listeners in Europe and Latin America, the sisters hope the United States will relish it, too. It's already rising on the singles. This week, they're visiting Miami and New York to promote the single and the LP, called "Hijas del Tomate," or "Daughters of Tomate."

Their song, known in Spanish as "Asereje," bases its lyrics on snippets from the 1979 classic "Rapper's Delight" by the Sugar Hill Gang, but transmogrifies them with a staccato twist from Las Ketchup's native Andalusia region.

The refrain goes like this: "Asereje ja de je de jebe tude jebere sebiunouba majabi an de bugui an de buididipi."

That's not Spanish, it's gibberish.

A sample can be found on the Net at <http://www.theketchupsong.com>



Armando Olela, 'Skull'

IFCC Celebrates Dia de los Muertos

An exhibition to celebrate the Mexican holiday, Dia de los Muertos, will open Thursday, Oct. 31 at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center located at 5340 N Interstate Ave.

The show features the work of five artists and all pieces will honor the dearly departed.

In the main gallery, Hector Hernandez presents a series of life-sized acrylic and mixed me-

dia paintings, which portray different aspects of everyday life in relation to the death. He juxtaposes the healthy with the deathly ill, death among the social classes, death and beauty and death in urban and rural settings.

Trilice Navarrete presents paintings that evoke death as a shadow that follows us, often becoming a part of us as an ex-

tension of our bodies and senses. Analee Fuentes adds humor and cross-cultural references with her paintings La Boda de Fuentes y Weissbarth: Homage to Van Eck with skeletal figures posed as Van Eyck's bride and groom.

The Dia de los Muertos show will run from October 31 through November 27. The IFCC is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday.



At left, Salma Azizza, (right), tries to get Jessa Foster, 4, to wave to her grandfather across the community garden where he sat under the shade of corn husks. Foster's grandfather, Hugh Gray, co-owns Big City Produce and Small World Café, the sponsors of Saturday's Community Celebration. Kids were treated to free pumpkins, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and the chance to turn organic apples into apple with an old fashioned homemade cider apple grinder.

Big City Produces a Big Crowd

Neighborhood grocery store and café host community gathering



Above, Caroline Buchalter of Spooky Dance Band plays a final round of music at the Big City Produce Community Celebration on Saturday, Oct. 19. The eclectic afternoon of music also featured the sounds of Larry Yes, Black Notes and Shades of Jazz and drew a crowd of 1500 who came out to celebrate life, community and the harvest season. Big City drew numbers and gave out bags of free groceries to people who happened to be standing on the same number drawn with chalk on the sidewalk.

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